REMARKS

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner:

(1) objected to the disclosure as the word "rims" on page 1, line 24, should be -- rings --, and required appropriate correction;

(2) rejected claims 1-10 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention; and

(3) rejected claims 1-10 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Pecorari.

In response to Item 1 above, Applicants have now amended the specification at page 1, line 24, so as to change "rims" to -- rings --. Accordingly, the specification is believed to be allowable.

In response to Item 2 above, Applicants have now amended claims 1-10 so as to provide a more proper antecedent basis therein. Accordingly, claims 1-10 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

In response to Item 3 above, Applicants have now amended claim 1 so as to further distinguish the present invention with respect to the prior art of record.

Independent claim 1 comprises a device for a rotatable coupling of two coaxial connection elements in which a gap between a housing part and an outer circumference of the toothed connection element and a gap underneath the rolling baring are each closed by sealing rings, which are secured to opposite circumferences of the toothed connection element, and are pressed by their inherent elasticity in an <u>axial</u> direction against a lower front end of a cylindrical casing-shaped housing part and against a lower front end of the untoothed connection element; and the housing part and sealing rings

protecting a lubricant grease against impurities.

Applicant believes that Pecorari discloses a rotatable coupling having a crown, a toothed element, securement means, and connection elements. Applicant further believes that Pecorari discloses a coupling having sealing rings fixed to the outer element of a gap, these sealing rings are pressed in a radial direction against an inner element across from the gap, and oil is used for lubrication therein. Applicants believe that Pecorari does not disclose or suggest sealing rings which are fixed to opposite sides of a toothed element and are pressed in an axial direction against the lower front end of the housing element and the lower front end of the untoothed connection element. In addition, Applicants believe that Pecorari does not disclose or suggest the use of lubricant grease rather than oil for lubrication. The sealing rings of the present invention can be manufactured much smaller than the radial forced sealing rings of Pecorari, which need a metal ring at the inner circumference for pressing the inner part of the ring against the respective element (see the small circles at the left sides of the sealings of Pecorari). Thus, the configuration of the sealing rings of the present invention reduces the space underneath the toothing, as well as the space between toothing and housing.

Further, as both sealing rings of the present invention are fixed relative to the toothed element, and are fixed relative to the rotation of the arrangement, they will not move with respect to the machine part which is connected to the toothed element. Therefore, if there is dirt between sealing ring of the present invention and the adjacent machine part, this dirt will not find a way into the gap inside of the sealing rings. The sealing rings of Pecorari are believed to be fixed to the outer elements because of the metal ring which

presses the inner lip against the inner part. Therefore, the outer sealing ring of Pecorari is believed to rotate with the housing with respect to a machine part coupled to the toothed element. If particles are pushed into the small slot between the outer sealing and an adjacent machine part, they can move upward under the sealing lip and may cause this seal to get leaky.

Further, as the lubricant is oil and the sealings are normally placed at the underside of the coupling element, the lubricant oil may drop outside the housing of Pecorari, so that the gearing runs dry. This is not possible at the present invention, where grease is used for lubrication, which cannot flow out, even if the sealing would get leaky. Accordingly, independent claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is restfully requested.

Claims 2-10, which depend either directly or ultimately from independent claim 1, are believed to be in condition for allowance at least for the above-identified reasons. Accordingly, allowance of claims 2-10 is respectfully requested.

If any additional fees are required to be paid in connection with this matter, please charge the same, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

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